

**2006 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE**

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History

The Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee was created in 1979 by statute, Section 74-4A-9 NMSA 1978, to provide a means of coordinating information exchange and to develop appropriate state actions in relation to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad. The name of the committee was changed in 1983 and again in 1986 to more accurately reflect the scope of the committee's work, which was broadened by the legislature in 1981, 1986 and 1991. Over the years, the committee has continued to receive extensive testimony on a variety of subject matter relating to the environment. For example, in addition to hearing testimony on the progress of WIPP, the committee has received testimony on air and water quality, solid waste, ground water quality, mining, pipeline safety and other issues that require attention from the legislature in its deliberation of proposed environmental regulation.

Work Plan

During the 2006 interim, the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee proposes to gather information and hear testimony on the three areas of focus adopted by the Legislative Council for the committee as well as other environmental issues. With regard to the three areas of focus, the committee plans to first monitor the New Mexico Department of Environment's (NMED's) progress in implementing the federal consent order on environmental remediation and cleanup at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Second, the committee intends to review the status of WIPP's state permit modification to accept remote-handled waste and Louisiana Energy Services' permit applications for its uranium-enrichment plant near Hobbs. Third, the committee proposes to consider issues related to the NMED's intention to assume primacy over the federal Environmental Protection Agency's national pollutant discharge elimination system.

The committee also proposes to hear testimony on the implementation of new mine safety requirements enacted by the legislature in 2006, mining reclamation activities in New Mexico and other current issues affecting the mining and oil and gas industries. Additionally, the committee plans to assess the impacts of the NMED's implementation of new septic tank regulations, receive an update on the NMED's inspection activities to prevent food-borne illnesses and consider the inclusion of environmental justice in the NMED's community-based policies and planning initiatives. The committee also plans to review the budget and legislative and regulatory initiatives of NMED.

Finally, if needed, the committee proposes to develop appropriate legislation for the 2007 legislative session.

2006 APPROVED MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 1	Santa Fe
July 11*	Silver City
August 9	Los Alamos
September 19-20	Carlsbad/Hobbs
November 27	Santa Fe

*Meeting date originally approved by the Legislative Council was July 10.